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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE
OF
MAJOR AZARIAH EGLESTON
OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY ARMY

BY
THOMAS EGLESTON, LL.D.

*Extract from the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record,
July, 1891*

NEW YORK
1892



Elizabeth Egerton

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MAJOR AZARIAH EGLESTON OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY.

BY THOMAS EGLESTON, LL.D.

AZARIAH EGLESTON was born February 23, 1757, in the town of Sheffield, Berkshire County, Mass. His parents were Seth and Rachel (Church) Eggleston. His grandparents were Joseph and Abigail (Ashley) Eggleston of Westfield. His ancestor Bagot Eggleston was born in England in 1560, and came from Exeter in Devonshire. He married Mary Talcott of Braintree in Essex, by whom, before leaving England, he had had two sons. They embarked in the ship *Mary and John*, which sailed from Plymouth, England, on March 20, 1630, and carried 140 passengers, "Godly families and people." Many of them were from the congregation of Maverick and Wareham in Exeter, who sailed with them. Mr. Wareham had been a celebrated minister in Exeter. The people who were associated with him were "an honorable company," and came from the counties of Devonshire, Dorsetshire and Somerset. They left England to form a colony in the Province of Massachusetts Bay. On March 29 the Winthrop company, consisting of four vessels, the *Talbot*, the *Jewell*, the *Arabella*, and the *Ambrose*, sailed from Cowes, England, for Salem, and reached there on the 12th of June. All of these colonists were men and women of good family and well-to-do, possessing high courage, a determined moral purpose, and strong religious convictions. They organized a church in Plymouth before they embarked. The *Mary and John* was ten weeks on the ocean, and it appears that during that period they had "preaching and ex-pounding every day." The vessel arrived in Massachusetts Bay on the 30th of May, but on account of a quarrel which they had had with the captain of the vessel, he, instead of anchoring as had been intended, in the Charles River, disembarked his passengers at a wild spot called Nantasket, near the entrance to Boston Harbor, where they were left to shift for themselves. A week later they celebrated the settlement at Dorchester with "a day of rest and thanksgiving," and during the summer months built permanent dwellings. The following winter was one of great want and suffering, but the colonists bore it with great fortitude. In the course of a few months they began to discuss burning questions as to their church organization, and finally, after some years, separated into parties who agreed as to the main questions of theology, but had slight differences of opinion about church organization, and settled different parts of the country.

Bagot Eggleston's name appears on the register as "Baget Eggleston, gentleman." He was a man of position and influence, and in 1631 was made a freeman of Dorchester. The early settlers of this country, and in fact people of that time generally, were very careless in the spelling of

names, especially when they were a little unusual. Of the name Bagot there are eighteen different spellings :

Bacot ¹	Begat ¹	Bigott ⁴
Baget ²	Beget	Bygatt ³
Bagget ²	Bigget	Byget
Bagod	Biggett	Bygod ⁴
Bagot ⁴	Bigod ⁴	Bygode
Baggot ¹	Bigot ⁴	Bygot ⁴
Beagat		

It must be remembered that many of these are not the signatures of the individuals, but the names as copied into documents by clerks who were not always careful. In one case there are three different spellings of the name in the same document. A careful search prosecuted for several months, both in this country and in Europe, makes it quite sure that there are no such names as those which appear without reference in the table above. In family records made from memory in this century, the name Bigot is the one usually attributed to him, but this is certainly not correct. In the recorded copy of his will the name is spelled Bygatt. At least seven of these variations in the name are the misspellings of inaccurate copyists. The Bigods were, in the time of Charles II., a noble and famous family in England, who built Tintern Abbey and figured in history ; but the title is now extinct, and it may be that this was a name in his mother's family, and from this Bigot, Bagat, or any of the names which appear in the copies of documents could easily have been corrupted.

In 1635 Bagot Egleston removed to Windsor, Conn., and was assigned to a position inside the *palisado*. He afterwards, by reason of purchase from other colonists, was appointed the sole owner of the land in the plan of 1654. He died in Windsor, September 1, 1674, in the 34th year of his age.*

Azariah's father, Seth Egleston, was born in Westfield, Mass., but removed to Sheffield, Mass., where his children were born. Azariah was the eldest son and second child in a family of six—two daughters and four sons. His grandfather, Joseph Egleston, married Mrs. Abigail (Weller) Ashley, and hence the constant and intimate association of the three families, both before, during, and after the Revolutionary War. General Hyde's family became afterwards also related by intermarriage ; so that the Eglestons, Patersons, Ashleys, and Hydes were always intimately associated during those times.

Seth Egleston was born at a time when people were obliged to be constantly on their guard to defend their properties and lives from incursions of Indians and ravages of wild beasts, and when a martial spirit was everywhere cultivated. His grandmother Ashley was of a military family, and while there was no special call for any military spirit while he was very young, it was latent and ready to spring into activity as soon as there was any occasion for it.

As the events of the Boston Tea Party showed, the provinces would not quietly submit to curtailments of their liberties. There was no

¹ Copies from legal documents.

² Windsor land records. Record of death.

³ Record of the will.

⁴ Family names still used in England.

⁵ Ancient family now extinct.

* For the genealogy of the Egleston family see Appendix C.

part of the country where the usurpations of the British crown and the injustice of Parliament were resented and resisted more emphatically than in Berkshire County.

As soon as Azariah Eggleston reached maturity he was most energetic in resisting the unjust demands of the officers of the King of Great Britain upon the liberties of the people of New England, and was one of the most active in procuring signatures to "the Solemn League and Covenant" which was adopted by the Berkshire Convention, and which on the 6th of July, 1774, was so generally signed throughout the province of Massachusetts Bay and elsewhere.

To understand clearly the determined resistance to the aggressions of the officers of the British crown, and how it was that men, women, and children were equally determined to resist them; and why it was that entire families, as in the case of the brothers of young Eggleston, enlisted in an army to fight for the liberties which had been granted to them by charter, and which were little by little taken from them; it is necessary to go back to the early history of the settlement of the western part of Massachusetts, which was ready to fight for its rights the first time that it understood them to be in danger, and more particularly to study the settlements of the town of Sheffield, in which he was born, and of the town of Lenox, in which he lived after the Revolution was over.

That part of the town of Sheffield which lies west of the Housatonic River was granted by the Governor of New York, March 6, 1705, to a company of people from that State, on condition that they should pay certain rents and make settlements and improvements within six years. On June 30, 1722, another tract to the south, which includes the principal part of the town of Sheffield, was granted on the petition of 116 persons. A committee of five was appointed to admit settlers, and to charge them 30 shillings for each 100 acres, the money to be expended in paying the Indians, and to be used for other expenses.

The first meeting to encourage settlements in the western part of the province of Massachusetts Bay was held in Springfield, on March 19, 1723. On April 25, 1724, Konkapot and other Indians, in consideration of £460, three barrels of cider, and thirty quarts of rum, conveyed to the company the tracts including the present towns of Sheffield, Great Barrington, Mount Washington, Egremont, and parts of Alford, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, and Lee, excepting a reservation in the north-west corner of Sheffield, which was afterwards purchased in February, 1736. On March 9, 1726, a party was sent from Springfield to survey and lay out lots, and they reported their proceedings on the 8th of the following April. In 1725 the first settlement was made. In 1726 the lands were occupied. On the 22d of June, 1733, a committee was appointed by the General Court to confirm and advance the settlement of the lower Housatonic Township (Sheffield). This committee visited Sheffield in October, 1733, and again in 1734, making a full record. Between 1726 and 1734 many of the original proprietors had sold their rights, but most of those lands whose titles were confirmed in 1733 and 1734 were already settled. They held their first town meeting May 12, 1733, and the town was first incorporated as a town, under the name of Sheffield, on the 22d of June, 1733. The first meeting-house was built in 1735.

In 1745 Stockbridge was settled, and in 1750 had a dozen families. In 1760 Samuel Brown was made the agent of a company to purchase of

two Indian sachems all their rights in the territory known as Mount Ephraim and Yokuntown. Mount Ephraim contained 9,000 and Yokuntown 14,000 acres. This tract of land included ten townships. It was north of Stockbridge, between the State of New York and the Housatonic River, and south of Hancock and Pittsfield. The stipulated price was £1,700; but as the province held a better title than the Indians could give, which was at the most a very doubtful one, matters were carried to the General Court, and in February, 1762, the land was advertised for sale by the Provincial Government, and was sold at auction with other townships on June 2, 1762. As it was sold the eighth in order, in the sale it was described as Township No. 8. It included Richmond and Lenox, was sold for £2,550, and the Indians, who do not appear to have been satisfied, were given another £1,000. On February 17, 1763, still further demands being made, the amount was increased to £1,700. It was afterwards found that the Indian chiefs had previously sold the land, and this sale was therefore annulled, and the prior sale confirmed by the payment of £650, on condition that within five years there should be fifty settlers, each of whom should have a house 24 x 18 and 7 feet high, and have seven acres of well cleared and fenced land, and should employ a Protestant minister of the gospel. This settlement was called Yokun Town, after Yokun, one of the friendly chiefs. The first town meeting was held April 17, 1764, and £25 was voted at that meeting "to hire preaching." On May 25 of that year it was voted to build two meeting-houses, 35 x 45, as the plantation, as it was called, was divided by a mountain range. On June 21, 1765, on petition to the General Court, a town was incorporated under the name of Richmond. It was intended that the name should have been Richmond, the town having been called after the Duke of Richmond, and this error in spelling was not corrected until 1785, by an Act of the General Court.

The first house in what is now the town of Lenox was built by Jonathan Hinsdale of Hartford, Conn., in the year 1750, at the foot of the Court House Hill. A small settlement followed rapidly, but no large number were attracted to the locality, for as late as 1782 a bounty of 80 shillings, half of which was paid by the town and half by the province of Massachusetts Bay, was given for every wolf killed, so destructive were they to the sheep and so dangerous to small children. Up to 1774 deer reeves were regularly elected to prevent the killing of moose and deer between December 21 and August 11. The whole country was occupied by the Stockbridge Indians, who, however, did not have any villages or settlements north of what is now Stockbridge. There appears to have been but one Indian raid, which was in 1754, in which a number of settlers were killed, but in which the Stockbridge Indians took no part.

Berkshire County was set off from Hampshire in 1761. Most of the counties and towns of Massachusetts received their names while it was a royal province. The legislature passed the acts erecting the counties and incorporating the towns, but when submitting them to the governor for his approval left the names blank. It was his prerogative to select and insert them. Sometimes he yielded to the wishes of the people, and sometimes was guided by his own feelings or wish to propitiate some one in the mother country. Francis Bernard, who was governor in 1761, was influenced in giving the name of Berkshire by the love which he felt to the county in England in which he was born. The names of most of

the towns in it were for the same reason taken from those of distinguished Englishmen.

On February 26, 1767, Governor Francis Bernard signed a bill incorporating the easterly part of the town of Richmond into a district by the name of Lenox. The town was named after the family of the Duke of Richmond, who spelled their name with two *n*'s. By an error which has not been rectified to this day, the name in the act of incorporation was spelled with one *n*. The name was anciently spelled Levanax. Levan is one of the principal streams of Dumbartonshire in Scotland, and in Scottish means an opening between woods. The termination "*ax*" is a Scottish termination for waters, so that the probable meaning of the word is very appropriate to the town, surrounded as it is on all sides with lakes.

The Duke appears to have been a very popular man, and to have been one of the very few in the House of Lords who advocated justice to the colonies. His name was Charles Lennox. Wishing to propitiate the Duke as well as the people, Richmond was named after his title and Lenox after his family. By the new law, districts were not entitled to representation, and the incorporation was as a district, made under the condition that it should not be entitled to send representatives to the General Court.

Governor Bernard consented in this way to make Lenox a town, but it had no representation. A clause was inserted in the charter, however, giving the right to elect a representative from Richmond and Lenox on alternate years. For neglecting to comply with this privilege in November, 1770, the towns were punished by a fine of £5 sterling, of which £1 5s. 4d. was assessed upon Lenox, and the rest upon Richmond. This was followed in 1771 by a fine of £8 for the same offence. They afterwards fought for this right, which at first they did not value. In common with the other towns of the State, Lenox became a town by the general act passed on March 23, 1786.

The joint organization between Lenox and Richmond continued until 1774. Mr. John Paterson, Esquire, afterwards major-general, was the last clerk of the Propriety. He was sworn into office, but made no entry in the book. The first town meeting was held March 11, 1767. On December 16, 1774, the first signs of dissatisfaction began to appear on the town records, when it was voted "that we will fall in with the advice of the Continental Congress." On December 26 they voted £3 6s. to Col. John Paterson to pay his expenses to the Continental Congress.

As early as 1760 dissatisfaction with the mother country arose on account of duties imposed on sugar and molasses. Men-of-war stationed on the coast were made collectors of customs. Authority was given them to break into stores and dwellings in search of articles suspected to have paid no duty. This had every appearance of a hostile demonstration against the colonies, and was so regarded by the colonists. The merchants opposed it on constitutional grounds. The question was argued in court by James Otis, who defended the rights of Americans with such eloquence that his hearers went away ready to take up arms against the execution of any such writs. "This," says John Adams, who was present, "was the first scene of opposition to the arbitrary claims of Great Britain. There and then American independence was born." In defence of the duty it was stated that the revenue so raised was to be used

in defence of the colonies. The colonists did not need any interpreter to make them understand that this meant that a standing army was to be quartered on them. They were already excited, and were commencing to think that they would have to defend their rights, when in 1762 Governor Bernard gave the opinion that Parliament had full power to alter the colonial governments and change their boundaries, which further increased the dissatisfaction. In 1764 Lord Grenville gave notice to the American agents in London, that at the next session of Parliament he should propose to increase the revenue by imposing a stamp varying from three pence to £10 to make documents legal. In March, 1765, the Stamp Act was passed, and on the same night Dr. Franklin wrote home: "The sun of liberty is set; you must light up the candles of industry and economy." The Act was received with every possible sign of opposition; bells were tolled, flags were put at half mast, meetings were held in every colony, resolutions condemning the unlawful assumption of power were passed, and Patrick Henry introduced into the General Assembly of Virginia a resolution that that body alone "had the exclusive right to lay taxes and impositions upon the inhabitants, and that whoever maintained the contrary was an enemy to the colony." The Stamp Act was repealed on March 18, 1766, but it was too late. The resolution of Patrick Henry was the signal for a general outcry throughout the whole of the colonies, and whoever supported it was applauded as the protectors of American liberty. The governors of the colonies not appreciating the situation, taxes were imposed on various articles. The colonies were required to support the soldiers sent out. New York refused, and the governor and assembly were suspended until they should comply. Massachusetts petitioned the king, and called on the other colonial legislatures to join that Province in suitable efforts to obtain redress. In the next session Governor Sir Francis Bernard called on the Province to rescind the resolution, and they refused, and were dissolved on account of their insubordination. The governors of the other colonies required of their legislatures a promise that they would not reply to the Massachusetts resolutions, and they refused, and were also dissolved in consequence. Orders were then given to send two regiments from Halifax. The General Court had adjourned. The governor would not call another. A convention from the various towns met in Boston on September 22, 1766, to devise measures for the public safety, and while they were in session the regiments arrived in Boston, which only added fuel to the flame. A town meeting resolved that the king had no right to send the troops there without the consent of the Assembly; that Great Britain had broken her original compact; and that therefore the king's officers had no longer any business there. The selectmen refused to find quarters for the soldiers in the town, and the council refused to find barracks for them. The governor placed the troops who had tents on the Common, and quartered the others in the State House and Faneuil Hall, which made the feeling still more bitter. By the authority of the charter granted by William and Mary in 1692, every town "consisting of the number of 43 freeholders had the right to choose and send each year one freeholder as a representative to the General Court, and the General Court selected from its own members "twenty-eight councillors" to serve as an upper house. As the towns, one after the other, were set off and incorporated, the number of representatives increased very rapidly, but the number of "councillors" remained permanent, and the upper house became very disproportion-

tionate to the lower one. In 1761 bills were placed before Governor Bernard on the same day for setting off Berkshire County from Hampshire, to which it then belonged, and for incorporating Pontoosuck into the town of Pittsfield, and for erecting four other plantations into towns. The governor signed the bill relating to Pittsfield on condition that it should not send a representative to the General Court until 1764. The other bills he returned unsigned. This caused the greatest possible dissatisfaction and "produced some popular harangues." The matter was referred to the Home Government, who replied that in future when towns were divided, the parts set off should have the benefits of the act of incorporation of 1692, but should have no right to choose representatives. This meant taxation without representation. It was undoubtedly this decision which caused the dissatisfaction in the minds of the people to culminate, and made them determine on resistance, and also induced them to think of a possible separation from the Home Government, and of independence. But they only thought of it. No more loyal subjects of the King of Great Britain could be found than the colonists in the American provinces, but the seed of dissatisfaction having been sown grew very rapidly.

On January 12, 1773, a committee of the town of Sheffield was appointed "to take into consideration the grievances which the Americans in general, and the inhabitants of this province in particular, labor under." This committee reported as follows:

"The Committee of this Town, Appointed to take into consideration the Grievances which Americans in general and the Inhabitants of this Province in particular labor under, and to make a Draught of such proceedings as they think are necessary for this Town in these critical circumstances to enter into, Report as follows, viz., that,

"This Town taking into their serious consideration and deeply lamenting the unhappy situation to which Americans in general and his Majesty's most faithful subjects, the Inhabitants of this Province, in particular are reduced, owing to the jealous Eye with which America has been viewed by several british Administrations, since the Accession of his present most Gracious Majesty to the throne and viewing with the deepest Sorrow the Design of Great Britain (which is but too apparent to every Virtuous Lover of his Country) gradually to deprive us of invaluable Rights and privileges, which were transmitted to us by our worthy and independent Ancestors at the most laborious and dangerous Expence Should esteem ourselves greatly wanting in the Duty we owe ourselves our Country and Posterity, Called upon as we are by our Bretheren, the respectable Town of Boston, should we neglect with the utmost Firmness and freedom to express the Sense we have of our present Dangerous Situation, always professing, as with Truth we do, the most emicable Regard and Attachment to our most gracious Sovereign and protestant Succession as by Law established, we have with that Deference and Respect due to the Country on which we are and always hope to be dependent, entered into the following Resolves, viz.:

"Resolved that Mankind in a State of Nature are equal, free and independent of each other, and have a right to the undisturbed Enjoyment of their lives, their Liberty and Property.

"Resolved that the great end of political Society is to secure in a more effectual manner those rights and privileges wherewith God and Nature made us free.

"Resolved that it hath a tendency to subvert the good end for which Society was instituted, to have in any part of the legislative body an Interest separate from and independent of the Interest of the people in general.

"Resolved that affixing a stipend to the Office of the Governor of the province to be paid by money taken from the people without their consent creates in him an interest Separate from and independent of the people in general.

"Resolved that the peaceful Enjoyment of any preveliges to the people of this provence in a great measure (under God) depends upon the uprightness of and inde-

pendency of the Executive Officers in general, and of the Judges of the Superior Court in particular.

"*Resolved* that if Salleries are affixed to the office of the Judges of the Superior Court rendering them independent of the people and dependent on the Crown for their support (which we have too much Reason to think is the Case) it is a precedent that may hereafter, conceding the Depravity of human Nature, be improved to purposes big with the most Obvious and fatal consequences to the people of this province.

"*Resolved* that Americans in general (and his Magestes Subjects the Inhabitants of this Province in Particular, by there Charter) are intitled to all the Liberties, Priviledges and Immunities of Natural born british Subjects.

"*Resolved* that it is a well known and undoubted priviledge of the british Constitution that every Subject hath not only a Right to the free and uncontrolled enjoynment use and Improvement of his estate or property so long as he shall continue in the possession of it, but that he shall not in any manner be deprived thereof in the whole or in part untill his consent given by himself or his Representative, hath been previously for that purpose expressly obtained.

"*Resolved* that the late acts of the parlement of Great Breton expres porpos of Rating and regulating the colecting of a Revenew of the Colonies; are unconstitutional as thereby the Just earning of our labours and Industry without Any Regard to our own consent are by mere power ravished from us and unlimited power by said acts and commissions put into the hands of Ministeral hirelings are the Deprivation of our inestimable and constitutional priviledge, a trial by Jury, the determination of our property by a single Judge paid by one party by Money illegally taken from the other for that purpos, and the insulting Diference made between british and American Subjects are matters truly greavious and clearly evince a Disposition to Rule with the Iron Rod of Power.

"*Resolved* that the interduccion of civil Officers unknown in the Charter of this Province with powers which Render Property, Domestic Security and the Enjoyment of the Inhabitation altogether Insecure are a very great greavence.

"*Resolved*—that it is the Right of every subject of Great Breton to be tried by his peers of the vicinity, when charged with any crime, that any act of the parliament of Great Breton for Destroying the priviledge and tearing away subjects from there Connections, Friends, Buissness and the possibility of evincing there innocence, and carrying them on bare suspicion to the Distance of Thousands of Miles for a trial is an trouble Grevance.

"*Resolved*—that the Great and General Court of this Province have it in their power in consequence of Instructions from the Ministry only, too exempt any Man or Body of Men residing within and Receiving Protection from the Laws of this Province from contributing there equal Proportion towards the Support of Governnient within the same nor can any such instructions or orders from the Ministry of Great Breton Justify Such Proceedings [for] should this be the Case it will follow of consequence that the whole Province Tax may be laid on one or more persons as shall Best suit with the Caprice of the Ministry.

"*Resolved*—that any Determination or adjudication of the King in Counsel with Regard to the Limits of Provinces in America, where by Privite Property is or may [be] affected, is a great Grevence already very severely felt by Great Numbers, who after purchasing Lands of the Only Persons whome they would sopose had any Right to Convey have on a sudding, by such an adjudication been deprived of there whole Property and from a state of affluence reduced to a state of Beggary.

"*Resolved*—That the great and general Court of this Province can constitutionally make any Laws or Regulations Obligatory upon the inhabitation there of residing with in the Same.

"*Voted*—that the Town Clark duly Record the Prosedings of This Meeting and Make a true and attested Copy There of as soon as may be and forward the same to David Ingersole, Junr Esq, The Representative of This Town, at the great and general Court at Boston who is hereby Requested to consider the above Resolves as the Sence of his Constitu acts [*sic*] the Town of Sheffield and to the *centinual* Menes [*sic*] in his Power that that the Greaviances complained of may be redressed, and where as the Province of New York, by the most unjustifiable Prosedings have by a late act of there general Assembly extended the Limits of the County of Albany East as far as Connecticut River and under pertence of having by that act the legal Jurisdiction within that part of this province, by Said Act included within The County

of Albany have exercised Actual jurisdiction and the officers of the County of Albany without the least pretence of any Precept from the Orthority On this side the Line, by Color of a warrant, executed in that County upon suspision that a man had been guilty of a crime in this County, taken him and carried him to Albany for examination in Inditement crimes have been tried, to have been cometted at Sheffield in the County of Albany, Mr. Engersoll is here by requested to use his Utmost Influence that the Alarming consequences from such proceedings dreaded, may be prevented & That the Fears of the people may be quieted by a speedy Determination of that unhappy controversy And where as it hath been reported that the support given by the great and general Court to the Judges of the Superior Court hath been inadddquate to the service performed, Mr. Engersoll is here by requested that (if this Report shall appear to be founded in truth) he use his influence Saleries may be augmented, to such a sum as shall be sufficient to support the Dignity of the office."

These resolutions, after being read twice in town meeting, were passed unanimously.

This stated the whole case, but it produced no effect, and no redress was obtained. The governors were the representatives of the king. Repression and oppression were in their view a royal prerogative. They were far from the throne, and they exercised as far as they dared the royal prerogative in their own way. "Who were these rebellious subjects that they should listen to them?" And so the loyal subjects who carried their complaints to the representatives of the throne, in the hope that they would reach it, when they obtained no redress began to ask themselves whether they could ever reach "his gracious Majesty," and what was the use of waiting when they had the power to be free?

Thus the Revolution really commenced by asserting thorough loyalty to the king, but the people refused to obey the unconstitutional acts of the Parliament. Later, when they found that the king was deaf to their remonstrances, they considered that by violating his coronation oath he had relieved his subjects in America from any obligations that they had taken. But the oath to the king not only required that they should defend his Majesty to the utmost of their power, but would endeavor to disclose all conspiracies against him, and that they would use "no equivocations or evasions or secret reservations whatsoever" in the oath which they took. This made every man an informer, which he was always ready to be when he had believed that justice was a necessary attribute of the king. When the five retaliatory measures passed on account of the Boston Tea Party were published, the oath became intolerable to him, and he repudiated it.

The passage of the Boston Port Bill, and the four Acts passed with it had in fact abrogated the charter of the provinces, and took away from the colonists, previously proud of their being British citizens, the last of their remaining rights. Councillors and the higher judges were to be appointed by the king and to hold office during his pleasure. All other officers, judicial, executive, and military, were to be appointed by the governor, and were removable by him without the consent of the council, who had power only over sheriffs. Town meetings were only to be held for the election of municipal officers. Their only function was to cast the ballots. No discussion was allowed. Special meetings could only be held by the consent of the governor, who prepared all the business which could be transacted. Jurors could only be appointed by the king's sheriffs. The people had no rights. The king's will, or what was infinitely worse, the will of many of his officials was the only law.

The house of Representatives was reduced to nothing, for the governor could prorogue or dissolve it, and always had an unqualified veto. He and the judges were independent of the Provincial government, for they received their salaries from the crown. There was no trace of liberty left. They were to live, if they did not resist, under a despotism as absolute as any in Europe. If they had accepted the conditions for ever so short a time, it would be infinitely more difficult to break away from them afterward, for the power would then have been organized, and so they did not take any half measures. They then and there repudiated the whole scheme. They passed the Solemn League and Covenant in most of the counties and towns of the provinces. It was received everywhere with acclamation as the only measure then possible. On the 14th of July, 1774, it was signed by 110 citizens of Lenox. This League and Covenant contained the principles of the American Revolution, and was drawn up by some of the most prominent men of the county, and its public adoption made it like household words to the men and women of that time. Copies of the oath, "renouncing and abjuring all allegiance, subjection, and obedience to the King or Government of Great Britain," are in the possession of the writer. They were signed by government officers as late as 1820. In those days men were not only patriotic, but showed their patriotism; and, like Charles Carroll of Carrollton, they not only announced their principles, but put their signatures to them, adding the names of the towns in which they lived, so that there could be no possible mistake as to who they were.

Every child in the whole province of Massachusetts Bay was familiar with the grievances of the colonies. They were talked over in and out of school hours; they were the subjects of their play battles; and many were the blows which the party representing the aggressors, whether they personated governors or soldiers in their plays, got from their opponents, who in their turn had to take their share of buffeting for the play wrongs which they had inflicted. They heard of them whenever men stopped to talk in the streets or met in public gatherings. They were discussed by their parents by the fireside in the evening. They took in the spirit of opposition to the aggressions of the British Crown as they drew their breath. It grew with the growth of their bodies until they were impregnated not only with the desire to be free, but with the determination to defend that freedom at any cost. The principles of free government were in the air they breathed, and it was no wonder that when they saw this freedom slowly slipping from their grasp, encroached on by every act of legislation of the British parliament in England, and by every act of the royal governors, that whole towns and families rose as one man to resist. Yet these people were loyal and true subjects. They "feared God and honored the king;" but because they feared God they resisted the king and his officers when they were convinced that the retention of their manhood required them to do so. It was under such inspirations and such principles that Seth Egleston had educated his family. His own father, with General Ashley, had enlisted in 1757 from Sheffield, which was then the most populous town in the district, in the French wars, and he and the children of his family were familiar with the recitals of the campaigning of those days. He was a soldier himself, having enlisted in defence of the colonies and of his own town, when it was shown that to preserve their freedom organization was necessary, so that when force must be used

it could be used effectively. There was no doubting what the citizens meant. In 1774 they were still loyal, but proposed to defend themselves. In 1775 they had learned that they must act both on the offensive and defensive, and on the 18th of June, 1776, the citizens of Sheffield in town meeting "pledged their lives and fortunes to secure their independence," and on or about July 4, 1776, they erected a liberty tree, which was cut down on the following night. The man who ordered it cut down was obliged to pass between two files of all the men and boys of the town and humbly ask the pardon of every one; and the man who actually cut it down was tarred and feathered, and mounted on a raw-boned horse, and made to visit every house of the town and ask the pardon of the occupants. The man who ordered the tree cut down afterwards became an enthusiastic patriot.

On another occasion, in the town of Lenox, a man who was an obnoxious Tory was told that he must give up his allegiance to King George or hang. As he refused, he was hung until nearly dead; being then let down and told to hurrah for the Continental Congress, which he refused to do, he was again suspended. He was let down when they were afraid that life was already extinct, and when restored again told that he must hurrah for the Continental Congress or once more hang until he was dead, when he did "Hurrah!" and after he had been refreshed with a glass of toddy said: "Gentlemen, this is one way to make Whigs, but it is a very effectual one." There was no freedom of conviction on such subjects in those days.

On June 30, 1777, the first town meeting in the town of Sheffield was called "in the name of the Government and people of Massachusetts Bay," and from this time on the records of the town meetings are full of patriotic resolutions.

During all this time the colonial matrons and the mothers of the Revolution were not idle. They, too, were busy; but it was not in public meetings. There were some Molly Pitchers among them, and many who would have acted as she did had there been an occasion for it. They saw clearly enough that the demands of the royal governor, if acceded to, would degrade their sons and daughters, and no sacrifice was too great for them to make in resisting them. The mother gave her son his arms and sent him to camp with her blessing, her prayers, and her tears. The wife who loved her husband did the same, and assured him that the best proof of his love to her was resistance to encroachments on their liberties. The sister was proud to see her brother take up arms for a great principle and encouraged him to it. They rejected any thought of yielding, and discarded the royal authority as completely as they had the British merchandise or the tax-cursed tea. In the absence of their fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers, fighting a professional soldiery, the women planted the fields and reaped the harvests and looked after the home. They brought up the children in the same principles, so that the boys were proud to believe that they might be called on to fight, and the girls to think that even if they must stay at home they could serve the cause of liberty well, and they were proud to do it. The men at least had the stimulus of excitement at times. The women did their work, trembling lest in the record of the last battle should be the name of some loved one in the list of the killed, wounded, or missing, or in the hospital list. It required courage, patience, and heroism to do their work, and they did it only as

heroines could, and to-day we are proud when we can find the names of any of the Revolutionary matrons on our family tree.

When John Paterson came back from the first Provincial Congress and informed the people of Berkshire County that they must be prepared to fight, and called for volunteers to the regiment he was raising, Azariah Eggleston and his three younger brothers needed no urging. He was at Pittsfield at the time, and enlisted from there on April 29, 1775, but all four of them enlisted as privates in Captain Noble's company, which was afterwards called "The Flower of Berkshire." It was not the result of an impulse but of principle, and was done deliberately as the result of a settled conviction. This regiment was composed of representatives of the best families of Berkshire County. They drilled and uniformed themselves as best they could, but it was not the uniform nor the military *éclat* and hope of promotion which influenced them. It was the determination to sacrifice anything to uphold what was dearer to them than life, and that was *liberty*. Azariah Eggleston enlisted about the time that the news of the battle of Lexington reached Pittsfield, and on the 22d of April, 1775, immediately after the news of the battles of Lexington and of the bridge at Concord had been received, he marched with the regiment, after only a few hours' notice, to Cambridge. He was with his regiment, which was the first in the field, and defended Boston from the attack in the rear while the battle of Bunker Hill was going on. He served in this regiment for eight months, and remained for six weeks after his term of enlistment was up. He then re-enlisted for a year in a company commanded by Captain David Noble. He made the disastrous Canada campaign, and was in the battle of the Cedars. When he came to Mount Independence, in the face of all the sickness and disaster, he enlisted for the war as a sergeant, which shows, as his subsequent life did, how thoroughly he was convinced of the justice of the cause for which he was fighting. Of his three brothers, two had been compelled by the ravages of disease to abandon the life of a soldier. One had been rendered a cripple for life by wounds received in Canada, but he still persevered and came down with the rest of the army from Canada to the relief of Washington. On Christmas eve, 1776, he crossed the Delaware in the ice; and on Christmas day, in a storm of hail and snow, he was in the battle, in the advance guard commanded by Colonel Stark, in the taking of the Hessians at Trenton. We of to-day glory in these achievements, but the men of that day had to endure not only the danger of being swamped by the ice or being crushed by it, but the fear of the result of what might be only a temporary victory. They were not well fed, they were scantily protected against the cold. They had won their victory, which was a decisive one, by a surprise and skilful tactics, but the British had an overwhelmingly superior force, which was only temporarily scattered, and were mad with rage that they had been surprised. Other movements would have to be made, equally hazardous, before they could be sure of retaining what they had gained, but they re-crossed the river and waited in the cold for the time to come to cross it again to make those moves. They were kept warm by their patriotism and bold by their own determination to resist, and that Christmas eve and day will never be forgotten in American history. This was the spirit which made the British commander at Ticonderoga appreciate on the instant, that when Ethan Allan called on him to surrender "in the name of the Great Jehovah and the

Continental Congress," he meant what he said, and that he must yield at once, which he did; and this was also the spirit which made men hold out through eight years of privation and suffering to the close of the war.

Sergeant Egleston thus took an active part in that eventful week which did so much to settle the determination which the patriots felt to secure their independence, and made the royal governors and generals feel that they had something more to fight with than "an undisciplined and cowardly rabble." They really settled the fate of Lord Cornwallis by keeping him in this country to surrender afterwards his own sword, instead of going to England to assure the king that the rebellion was conquered. About a week afterwards Sergeant Egleston was in the battle of Princeton, and assisted in capturing three regiments of British troops, who surrendered there, as their commander was destined to surrender only a few months later. Shortly after these battles his regiment was ordered to the northern part of the State of New York. He was stationed at Mount Independence, opposite Ticonderoga, where he shared in the destitution, privation, and cold of that bitter winter and sickly spring. In common with every soldier and the whole country, he shared in the stinging mortification and discouragement caused by the surrender of Ticonderoga, which might have been saved by a little energy on the part of Congress in sending the relief that was needed. But this surrender was quickly followed by the capture of Burgoyne, which was one of the most brilliant acts of our army. Soon after the battle of Germantown, which occurred October 4, and previous to the capture of Burgoyne on the 17th of October, he was promoted to the rank of ensign, on account both of his efficiency and his bravery.

The commission is issued to Azariah Egleston, gentleman, "by the authority of the delegates of the united colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Essex of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, ensign of the army of the United Colonies, raised for the defence of American liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof." It is dated Boston, January 1, 1777, and is signed by John Hancock. During the memorable winter of 1777-78 he was at Valley Forge, active in duty, patient in suffering, sharing all the privations of the soldiers, and working with his might to bring the army up to its greatest efficiency. During that winter the following oath was generally administered. The one he signed is given below :

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

I, Azariah Egleston, Ensign, in Colonel Vose's regiment, do acknowledge the United States of America to be free, independent and sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George III., King of Great Britain, and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him, and do swear I will to the utmost of my power support, maintain and defend the said United States against the said King George III., his heirs and successors, and their abettors, assistants and adherents, and will serve the said United States in the office of Ensign, which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding.

(Signed)

AZARIAH EGLESTON, *Ensign.*

Sworn to before me, Valley Forge, May 18, 1778.

BARON DE KALB.

A part of the enlistment papers of his company, dated March 24, 1777, are amongst his papers.

After the promotion of Colonel Paterson to the rank of brigadier-general, the First Massachusetts Regiment, to which Ensign Eggleston then belonged, was commanded by Colonel Joseph Vose. He was in both of the battles of Bemis' Heights, and was also at Saratoga when Burgoyne surrendered. Afterwards, in the same year, his regiment was ordered to Pennsylvania.

He was shortly after made quartermaster under Colonel Vose, and served the troops for two years faithfully during that difficult period when the army, no longer being able to get supplies, were obliged to seize them and give receipts for them, which were payable in a depreciated currency. In 1778 he was in the battle of Monmouth, N. J., and afterwards marched to Rhode Island. He was in the siege of Newport when misunderstandings, storms of wind and rain, and the uncertain action of the French commander rendered what might have been a brilliant and successful siege only a safe retreat on the early morning of August 30, in the nick of time to save defeat. They had their winter quarters at Providence in 1778 and 1779. In the spring of 1779 he marched from Providence to the North River, about the time Fairfield was burned and Stony Point was taken, and was in all the skirmishes during the retreat from Rhode Island. He served in the State of New York for the rest of the campaign, and wintered at a place called Budd's Huts, on the east side of the Hudson River, opposite West Point. On August 13, 1780, he was commissioned as lieutenant in the Massachusetts line. He still served as quartermaster, and was stationed under Colonel Vose at West Point. He was made paymaster in the year 1781, and was reappointed in the years 1782 and 1783, and acted in that capacity until the close of the war.

He went to Philadelphia when Congress was surrounded by the Pennsylvania troops. He continued in the service of the Government until the end of the war and was twice wounded, and went to the city of New York in December, 1783, after the British had evacuated it, and from there to West Point, where he completed the settlement of the accounts of the First Massachusetts regiment, of which he was then paymaster, and on March 4, 1784, he left West Point and returned to the town of Lenox.

We little realize now how much it cost those early patriots to continue the war to the end, for not only was the safety of their homes in jeopardy, but their currency had depreciated in value until in 1780 it required £40 sterling in Continental currency to buy a pair of shoes. The town of Lenox was in debt £1,245, £480 was assessed to pay for horses purchased by the town for Continental purposes, and £6,100 was voted to pay for the town's proportion of beef for the Continental army. The people as a whole were bankrupts. There was no bankrupt law and no relief to the man who was honestly unable to pay. Imprisonment for debt was the law, and became the fashion. Many a soldier who had fought during the whole war for his civil liberties languished in prison on account of an action brought against him to enforce the payment of a small debt that it was no fault of his that he was unable to pay. The sheriff did his duty without remorse, and there was no escaping his writ. Men yielded to this despotism, which was in their own power to repress, without stopping to think how much more grievous this assault on their

General Washington presents
his compliments to Mrs. Lydston &
requests the favor of his company at
Dinner tomorrow - 3 o'clock -

Friday 24th Feb^y

liberties was than any aggression of the king or his royal governors. The machinery of the law had stopped during the Revolution, and the Committee of Correspondence, with the selectmen and military officers of the town, were empowered to decide disputes between man and man "until some legal authority is established." But the citizens "feared God," if they no longer "honored the king;" and deeds of violence were unknown, civil rights were secured, and the ordinary duties of life were faithfully performed. After the war, to their great honor, all town debts were honestly paid, the surviving soldiers returned to their homes and farms in contentment, and the town powder house was taken down and rebuilt into a public vault in the village cemetery.

Nothing could shake the loyalty of the men who made the opinion of the town of Lenox. Although other towns in Berkshire joined the insurgents in Shay's rebellion, Lenox supported the authority of the law. A county convention was held in Lenox during the last week in August, 1786. This assembly was composed of members of all the towns, and resolutions were passed solemnly pledging themselves "to use their influence to support the courts of justice and to endeavor to quiet the agitated spirits of the people;" and to the crushing of this (Shay's) rebellion Lenox lent not only its influence but its men, General Paterson having been sent at the head of the troops to put the rebellion down.

His constant association with General Paterson during the war made Major Egleston an intimate member of his family, as well as of his staff. He was not long in gaining the affections of his daughter Hannah, to whom he was married on August 11, 1785. In 1783 General Paterson had built a house in Lenox. When he left Lenox he gave it to his daughter. The mansion is still in the possession of her grandson, Thomas Egleston of New York.

Mrs. Egleston was a person of pleasing presence and attractive manners, highly accomplished, and in every way fitted to preside over her household. Their family consisted of two sons and four daughters, who were some of the most beautiful and accomplished women of western Massachusetts. Her sons were George Washington Egleston, late of Charleston, S. C., and Thomas Jefferson* Egleston, late of New York City. Mrs. Egleston died very suddenly in Lenox, on January 31, 1803. Her funeral sermon was preached by Dr. Shepard and printed by universal request. A copy is in my possession.

On January 1, 1786, Major Egleston was made aide-de-camp to Major-General Paterson, with the rank of major. The commission is dated June 5, 1787, and is signed by John Hancock. He was then commissioned deputy-quartermaster-general in the Massachusetts militia, under Major-General John Paterson, during Shay's rebellion. The commission is in my possession. It was issued on May 29, 1787, and is signed by Governor John Hancock. He was again appointed by Hancock, when General Paterson resigned in order to leave the State, with the same rank, and again on March 7, 1789, by Governor Avery, and served on the staff of Major-General John Ashley.

He was a friend of both Generals Lafayette and Kosciusko, and was constantly associated with Washington. He was with him during the terrible winter at Valley Forge. A fac-simile copy of an invitation to

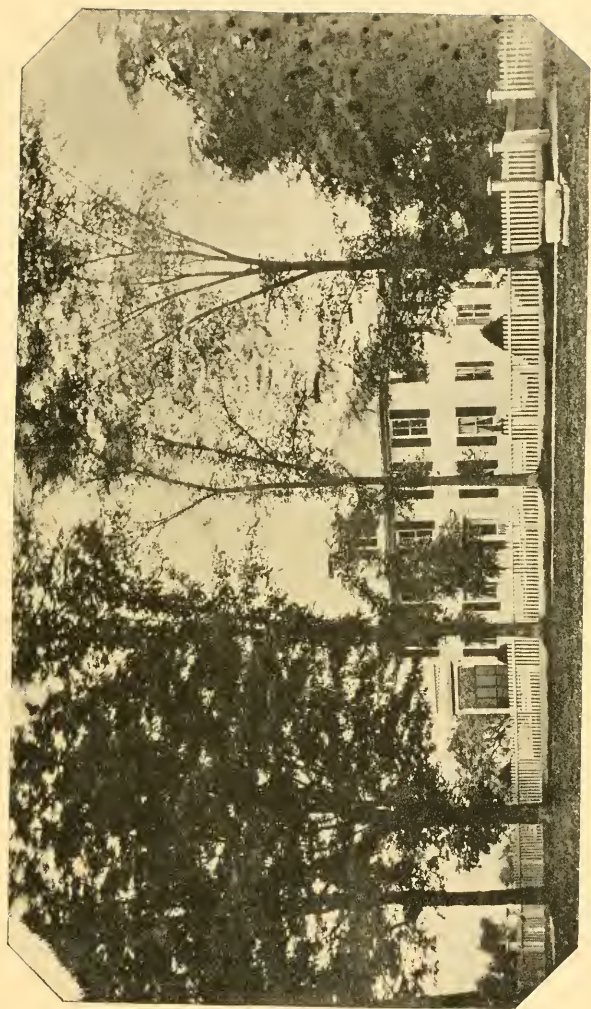
* After he was twenty-five Mr. Egleston dropped the name of Jefferson.

dinner, in General Washington's handwriting, dated February 29, 1780, is annexed. He was one of the founders of the Society of the Cincinnati, his signature being the twenty-second on the articles of association, General Washington's being the first. He was an active member and one of the founders of the Massachusetts Society, his signature being the seventh on the list.

After the war, when the citizens had returned to their homes, the question of what should be the county seat of Berkshire County began to be discussed, and was a matter of great interest. In 1785 the question began to be agitated as a serious political matter. Each of the centre towns was desirous of being the county town, but the contest, after some weeks, narrowed itself to Pittsfield, Lenox, and Stockbridge. General Paterson and Major Eggleston were amongst the strongest advocates for Lenox, and they not only presented its claims, but they circulated a subscription paper for the erection of the county buildings, and were very enthusiastic in promoting the claims of Lenox. This list was headed by General Paterson with the largest sum that was subscribed.* The amount required for these buildings was raised by subscription by the time that the legislature was ready to discuss the question. The matter was brought before the people, to be determined by popular vote, which resulted in the choice of Stockbridge; but the legislature did not agree with this vote, and decided in 1787 upon Lenox being made the county town. The Court of General Sessions appointed Major Eggleston of Lenox, Theodore Sedgwick and John Bacon of Stockbridge, to determine where the buildings should be located, and after some time they decided that they should be on the old Stockbridge road, half a mile from the village. The buildings were commenced in the year 1788 and finished in 1790. They were burned down in 1812, when the legislature was memorialized to change the county seat to Pittsfield. The contest now was between the northern tier of towns, which wanted Pittsfield, and the southern tier, which desired to have Lenox retained. When put to vote by towns, the contest was decided in favor of Lenox; but it was not settled, for the people of Pittsfield kept this in constant agitation, and after eighty-one years were successful in the year 1860 in having the county buildings removed there. The court house, which is now the town hall, was completed in 1791-92. A new court house was built in 1815, which is now known as Sedgwick Hall.

At the time the Declaration of Independence was signed, the thirteen colonies, which formed all there was of the then United States, occupied a region about 900 miles long and 100 miles wide, with less than 2,000,000 people. What these men by their devotion made possible is a country 2,500 miles wide from north to south, reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with over 60,000,000 people, in every part of which life, liberty, and property are perfectly secure, while good men and honest citizens are sure of having their reputations protected during their lives and their memories cherished after their deaths. This is the growth which the sacrifices made during those days have developed, and which the most heroic of those Revolutionary soldiers would have scarcely dared to hope could have been realized to the extent that it has been. The American flag is the only American thing that can bear stripes. It grew out of the determination to be free, but it took a long, bitter civil

* See Appendix A.



MAJOR EGLESTON'S HOUSE IN LENOX, MASS., AS IT WAS IN 1862.

war, though not so long by half as that of the Revolution, to make it float over a people who would not tolerate stripes anywhere on anyone.

Those were stirring days, altogether extraordinary times, and the men who lived then were full of ideas that to that generation on this continent were not the ideas of most of those who lived in the Old World at that time. The idea of representation in government, and of no taxation without representation, was what they thoroughly believed in. They sent their representatives to act in the three provincial congresses with carefully prepared instructions, and every representative in every one of these congresses knew perfectly well that he would be heartily supported at home.

The men of the Revolution are all gone. The relics of the Revolution are disappearing very rapidly; but that the memories of those times were not soon forgotten is shown by the oaths signed by the people of Lenox as late as 1820, abjuring all allegiance to the Government and King of Great Britain. That free government was the principle upon which this country was founded was shown by the extraordinary outbreak of patriotism brought out by the firing on Fort Sumter, and the heroism shown during the late Civil War.

It is impossible not to admire the ability and patriotism with which these men of the Revolution not only anticipated, but grappled, with the great questions arising not only from the revolution against the home government, but in the organization and development of a new country. These memories clustered about Lenox for many years. Of the houses built in the town previous to 1840 there was hardly one that did not have its Revolutionary traditions and mementoes of the heroes connected with the great battles which were then fought. The spirit of the Revolution was still visible in almost every house in the town, and came again to the front when in the late Civil War, which was as much a war for liberty as the war of the Revolution. Lenox furnished for that war as much in proportion to her ability as for the war of the Revolution.

For thirty-five years after the Revolution, Major Egleston was one of the leading citizens of Berkshire County, and was distinguished both for his public spirit and private hospitality. He was a man of fine presence, a polished gentleman, and courtly in his manners. There was no interest of the State which he did not make his own, no concern in the county in which he did not feel interested, and no affair of the town of Lenox to which he was not willing to give his time and attention.

He founded the schools, which he supported for many years at his own expense. While Lenox had not entirely neglected schools, as is shown by the town records, for on "ye 6th day of March, 1770," £20 was voted "to hire schooling," yet Major Egleston was not satisfied with their efficiency, and he caused Amasa Gleason to come to Lenox to be the principal of a private school which he supported.* After this school had been well established, and had for a number of years gained great reputation in the State, he gave the ground on which the Lenox Academy now stands and a considerable sum towards the erection of the present building, which was built and the Academy incorporated in 1803. Mr. Amasa Gleason was put at the head of the Academy, and served faithfully and acceptably until 1823. He was born in Stockbridge, December 15, 1775, graduated at Williams College in 1798, ranking among the first

* See Appendix B.

of his class. As an instructor he was thorough and judicious, though eccentric. He was a fine linguist. He was a man of sterling character, a great disciplinarian, a thorough teacher, and a distinguished educator. To his training many of the sons of Berkshire owe the position which they afterwards attained in life. He was a very absent-minded man and an inveterate chewer of tobacco, which sometimes made his personal appearance unpleasant. He did not always have control of his temper, though he recognized that that was one of the things that he, as an example to his pupils, ought to have entire command of; and frequently, when, in an outburst of passion, he would commence to say some dreadful thing, he would stop suddenly in the middle of what he was saying and go on as if nothing had happened, but more frequently the head of the unfortunate boy felt the shock of something more substantial than words, in the shape of a blow of a ruler or of a book when his brain seemed unable to master his task. Mr. Gleason lived directly opposite the Academy. As he was very near-sighted, he would often start from his house with the intention of making a straight line for the academy door, and if he reached it in safety it was his good fortune; otherwise he would walk directly into the side of the house. Owing to his near-sightedness, the pranks which the boys played upon him were sometimes cruel, as placing a goat in his pathway when they knew he could not possibly see it. But, notwithstanding his idiosyncrasies, he was a great educator, and made the Lenox Academy famous. He was very irascible, and as, contrary to custom in those days, he prayed in the opening exercises of the school with his eyes open, he sometimes saw a good deal at those times among the boys which was very irritating, and, forgetting that he was at prayer, he would occasionally break out into a tirade against the boy and would suddenly say: "John, if you don't stop, I'll break your head with a peel" (peel being the name for the large fire-shovel); or sometimes, recollecting himself, after he had commenced, would say: "John—I'll lay you on a bed of roses." Sometimes in the course of the school exercises he would throw a book at a boy's head, or strike him with it. He knew most of the classics that he taught by heart, but he would frequently get his book upside down, to the great amusement of his scholars; and as he was an inveterate chewer of tobacco, he would sometimes forget that his book was in front of him. But he was a good and faithful teacher and an honest man, and, notwithstanding his eccentricities, preserved the respect and affection of those whom he taught. His absent-mindedness was shown at one of the famous dinners at Major Eggleston's house, at a time when the examinations and exhibitions had been peculiarly acceptable. He occupied the post of honor on that day, at Major Eggleston's right, who turned to him just after the serving of soup and said to him: "Mr. Gleason, you have a feather in your cap to-day." Evidently thinking of something else, he put his hand to his head, and in doing so overturned his soup-plate into his napkin, and then in his absent-mindedness wiped his face with it. I have heard many such stories told of Mr. Gleason by his scholars, who related them with peals of laughter, yet I never heard one word that would imply any disrespect to his memory or anything but praise for his methods of instruction. He died in Sheffield, Massachusetts, October 21, 1843.

The Academy began to decay about 1850, but up to that time was one of the principal educational institutions of western Massachusetts. In its

days of prosperity it at times had more than a hundred pupils of both sexes, many of whom came from a great distance to prepare there for college. The "exhibitions" of the Academy were often more interesting than the commencement exercises at Williams College, and these, with the dinners at Major Egleston's house, were the great events of the year. The town was filled with visitors from all parts of the country. The church on the hill was always decorated, and a band of music was hired for the occasion. Public collations were served by the ladies. The exercises consisted of declamations, essays, disputations, dialogues, and dramatic representations, which lasted during the whole day, with an interval at noon.

Major Egleston was not only interested in education, but he was also actively engaged in perfecting the methods used by the farmers in tilling the soil. He was a member of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, and did all that he could to induce the farmers to improve their stock and increase the value of their lands.

In the early history of the town the Congregational Church was supported by taxes, and was the State Church. No person was allowed to vote in town meeting unless he paid his tax as a member of this church. As the number of persons of other denominations increased it was proposed to allow those who belonged to them to have their "minister's" tax remitted, but certificates to that effect were difficult to obtain, and in 1783 it was voted "that the Baptists in this town shall be excused from paying minister's rates without producing certificates annually." In 1793 Major Egleston called a meeting, the result of which was the foundation of what was known as the Episcopal Society, now Trinity Church. In 1794 each religious society was authorized to choose a suitable person to make a list of the persons belonging to that church, and to certify that they attended the instructions of the teachers of that denomination, and that upon such list being reported and accepted by the town meeting their names should be remitted from the next minister's tax. The first meeting of "the Lenox Episcopal Association" was held on December 26, 1793, when Daniel Burhans, of Lanesborough, was ordained deacon, and Major Egleston was elected the first treasurer of the parish. He afterwards represented it for many years in the diocesan convention of the State. The subscription to build the church, with his name at the head of the list, and also the subscription for defraying the expenses of the theological education of its first rector, the Rev. Daniel Burhans, as well as the warrant for the first meeting of the parish, are among the papers in my possession.

In 1796 the parish celebrated its first Christmas, and there being no church building the court-house and Major Egleston's house were decorated with greens, and a hundred guests from Boston, Pittsfield, Stockbridge, and Lenox were invited to dine at Major Egleston's house, an account of which was written by the Rev. Mr. Burhans, the Episcopalian clergyman of that day. Many traditions of the dinners held at Major Egleston's house, and of the bright and witty sayings at them, have been handed down in the family.

In 1799 Mr. Burhans went to Connecticut, and in 1805 the church was legally incorporated by an act of the General Court as the Protestant Episcopal Society of Lenox. The first meeting as an incorporated body was held April 29, 1805. The warrant for this meeting was issued by

Azariah Egleston. It is dated April 3, 1805, and authorized all the members in Stockbridge, Lee, Lenox, and Pittsfield to meet on that date.

A wooden structure was erected in 1816. The church was enlarged in 1873. The old church building has recently been sold, and has been replaced by a handsome stone structure on another site. The cornerstone of the new edifice was laid in 1885. It was consecrated in 1888. A mural tablet to his memory was placed on the walls of the church in 1887 before it was consecrated.

Major Egleston's home was always the headquarters for army officers, and men of law, literature, and learning, in Berkshire County. He was an active, energetic, enterprising, and public-spirited man, always identified with every public measure for the good of the town and the State. Many of the notable events which concerned the welfare of the town of Lenox in its very early history were planned and carried out either jointly or entirely by him or by his father-in-law, General Paterson. He went into the war as a matter of principle, and when relieved from duty as a soldier he went into civil life, and gave much of his time to public duties, and was distinguished in those callings as he had been in the field. Among his army friends he was always known by his military title. Those who became acquainted with him after he left the army called him Squire Egleston.

He was appointed justice of the peace May 17, 1787, which office he held continuously till 1815. In 1796, 1797, 1798 and 1799 he was the chosen representative of his district in the General Court (House of Representatives) in Boston. In 1807, 1808 and 1809 he was elected State senator. In 1808 he was appointed associate justice of the Court of Sessions, which office he held until 1815. He was made assistant marshal of the district of Massachusetts, in the towns of Lenox, Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Tyringham, Becket, Peru, Hinsdale, West Stockbridge, Richmond, Washington, Lee and Dalton, on June 22, 1810, for the collection of the census returns. The same year he was appointed to qualify all civil officers of his district.

It was the habit in those days to reward the services of men who had distinguished themselves in their service of the country, the town, or the State, by naming streets and squares after them. As after the war he was for some years very active in the State government in Boston, Egleston Square, in Roxbury, was named after him.

His intimate friends were the most prominent army, literary, and political men of the day. He always kept up his army associations. The letters from his army friends are full of declarations of the highest esteem for his personal character, as well as expressions of gratitude for benefits conferred. To some of them he gave homesteads, to others he gave either farms or helped them to secure them, and to others he lent his influence to insure to them prosperity and happiness.

Being himself unselfish, genial, and generous, he always expected the same in others, and in his old age lived to be grievously disappointed in some of those whom he had both trusted and benefited. Considering that the duty of the citizen was in every way to uphold the State, he was too often bondsman for those who found no sacredness in such obligations. One of these, shortly before his death, went to Canada with large amounts of public funds, and lived there in opulence with his ill-gotten gains. This so reduced Major Egleston's fortune that he felt it necessary to retire from



EGLESTON TABLET IN TRINITY CHURCH, LENOX, MASS.

public life, and he died soon after, on January 12, 1822, within a few weeks of his sixty-second birthday.

His name and that of General Paterson will always be connected with the early history of Lenox. But for these two men Lenox would not have been for so many years the county seat and most important town of Berkshire, and one of the most celebrated towns in the State. Settled as it was by Revolutionary officers and their families, it was for many years the literary and social centre of western Massachusetts. The glories of those days were always talked over among the old residents until that generation had passed away, and there are still traditions of them current in the town.

There were many such men in those times, but how comparatively few there are now. He was a good citizen and a most benevolent one. While his duty to the State was ever present to his mind, he never forgot his duty to his family. He was a fond husband, a good father, and a kind neighbor. Duty to him was first, whether it was to his country on the field of battle, to his State and Town in public matters, or to his family at home. His work was always done, and well done. The heritage of a good name, and a life full of good and kind deeds, is a legacy of inestimable value to his descendants.

APPENDIX A.

Names of the several Persons who sent their Children to Azariah Egleston's School, kept by Amasa Glezen—viz., from the 23^d day of April to the 17th day of July 1792, both days included, being for the first Quarter.

	DAYS.		£.	S.	D.
Thaddeus Thompson	201	3 Scholars per day $\frac{7}{8}$ quarter	1	2	6
Caleb Hyde, Jun.	75	1 ^d $\frac{1}{4}$ per day 2 Scholars	"	9	6
Azariah Egleston.	196				
Ebenezer Bement	168	3 Scholars per day $\frac{7}{8}$ quarter	1	2	6
Abigail Willard	114	2 Scholars " " "	"	15	"
Daniel Fellows	111	2 Scholars " " "	"	18	"
David Bosworth	127	" " " " "	1	"	"
Nathan Rosseter	214	3	1	2	6
Thomas Rockwell	74	2 Scholars	"	9	5
Enos Stone	184	3 Scholars			
Elias Willard, Jr.	87	2 Scholars			
Rufus Parker	70				
Samuel Monson	140				
Moses Way	137				
John Willard	65	1 Scholar per day $\frac{7}{8}$ quarter	"	7	6
Simon Bow	43	1 Scholar	"	4	6
Jacob Kash	74	$\frac{7}{8}$ p ^d			
Daniel Meeker	9				
Stephen Cruttenden	162				
Oliver Root	159				
Joseph Denham	82				
Jon ^s Hinsdale	64	1 Scholar per day $\frac{7}{8}$ quarter			
John Stoughton	60				
Gustavus Stoughton	113	2 Scholars per day 7			
Dayton Fuller	27	1 Scholar			
Charles Mattoon	57	1 Do.			
Joseph Barker	46				
Eldad Lewis	22				
Jacob Coan	52				
Oliver Wheten.	7				
Abner Bangs	26				
Caleb Hyde	35				
Gam ^l B. Whiting	7				
Seth Hibbard	1				
	3,009				

I do hereby certify that I kept the School as above mentioned & that Az. Egleston, Esq., employed & p^d me for Teaching said School & found a house for s^d School & was at the whole expense of it & I further certify, that the above n^o of Days as set ag^t each person is the n^o of Days they sent to s^d School.

LENOX July 18th 1792. AMASA GLEZEN.

(Endorsed on outside.)

School bill for the School taught by Mr. Amasa Glezen from the 23rd Day of April to the 17th Day of July 1792 both Days included s^d School having been a private one set up & supported by A. Egleston, Esq.

This one of a number of such accounts.

PART OF THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST TO BUILD THE COURT HOUSE IN LENOX.

Witness our hands this 24th of September, 1784 :

I John Whitlock hereby fully give the Lands I agreed to with this Comitty for setting the Statue for the Public Boundary in Lenox if the Buildings should be set on the ground where the Statue was set, Together with Twenty Pounds to be paid, as witness my hand

(4), paid Daniel Felwys three pounds paid in full.
 (5), Charles Mattoon, Five pounds Rec'd in full April 18, 1788.
 July 31, 1780, Elias Judd, two pounds Rec'd in full.
 July 31, 1789, Joseph Allen, one pound Rec'd in full.
 John Hewitt, Three Pound Rec'd in full.
 July 31, 1780, Seth Bateman, three Pound Rec'd in full.
 July 31, 1780, Elisha Pickney, 1 pound Rec'd in full.
 This is one of the subscription lists, a few names following which are illegible.

APPENDIX C.

1. BAGOT EGLESTON, b. in 1590; m. Mary Talcott; d. in Windsor, Ct., Sept. 1, 1674. She d. in Windsor, Dec. 8, 1657.

Children of Bagot (1) and Mary Eggleston.

2. JAMES, b. in England, 1638; m. Hester Williams; d. Dec. 1, 1679. She m. 2, April 29, 1680, to James Eno of Windsor.
3. SAMUEL, b. in England; d. in Middletown, Feb., 1690-91; m. in 1661, Sarah Desborough, who d. in 1682.
4. THOMAS, b. in Windsor, Aug. 26, 1638; d. unm. in Windsor, May, 1697.
5. MARY, b. in Windsor, May 29, 1641; m. June 7, 1655, John Denslow of Windsor, who d. Sept. 10, 1689.
6. SARAH, b. in Windsor, March 28, 1643; m. Feb. 16, 1664-65, John Pettibone of Sunbury.
7. REBECCA, b. in Windsor, Dec. 8, 1644; not mentioned in her father's will; probably died unmarried.
8. ABIGAIL, b. in Windsor, June 12, 1648; m. Oct. 14, 1669, John Osborn of Westfield, afterwards of Windsor.
9. JOSEPH, bapt. March 30, 1651, in Windsor; settled in what is now North Stonington, where he left descendants.
10. BENJAMIN, b. in Windsor, Dec. 18, 1653; d. in East Windsor, 1732; m. March 6, 1678, Hannah, d. of John Osborn and widow of Shadwell, who d. Aug. 17, 1715.

Children of James (2) and Hester Eggleston.

11. JAMES, b. Jan. 1, 1656; d. in Windsor, Dec. 22, 1746; m. 1, Aug. 28, 1718, Martha Clark, who d. May 25, 1728; m. 2, Elizabeth Blancher, in Nov., 1732.
12. JOHN, b. March 22, 1659; d. in Wintonbury, 1731; m. June 1, 1682, Esther Mills.
13. THOMAS, b. in Windsor, July 27, 1661; d. in Windsor April 6, 1732; m. Grace Hopkins, b. July, 1666; d. in Windsor, March 27, 1739.
14. HESTER, b. Dec. 1, 1663; m. June 10, 1686, John Williams of Windsor.
15. NATHANIEL, b. in Windsor, Aug. 15, 1666; m. Sept. 13, 1694, Hannah Ashley, b. in Westfield, Dec. 26, 1675. Living in Westfield in 1737.
16. ISAAC, b. in Wintonbury, Feb. 27, 1668-69; d. in the same place, Jan. 30, 1753; m. March 21, 1694-95, Mary Stiles.
17. ABIGAIL, b. Sept. 1, 1671.
18. DEBORAH, b. May 1, 1674.
19. HANNAH, b. Dec. 19, 1676.

Children of Samuel (3) and Sarah Eggleston.

20. SAMUEL, b. March 6, 1663.
21. THOMAS, b. June 4, 1667.

22. JOSEPH, b. Jan. 24, 1668; d. Jan. 31, 1668.
23. SARAH, b. Oct. 26, 1670.
24. SUSANNAH, b. May 19, 1674.
25. NICHOLAS, b. Dec. 23, 1676.
26. MARY, b. 1678.
27. MERCY, b. July 27, 1679.
28. EBENEZER, b. July 16, 1689.

Children of John and Mary (5) Denslow.

29. JOHN, b. Aug. 13, 1656.
30. MARY, b. March 10, 1658.
31. THOMAS, b. April 22, 1661.
32. DEBORAH, b. May 29, 1663.
33. JOSEPH, b. April 12, 1665.
34. BENJAMIN, b. March 30, 1668.
35. ABRAHAM, b. March 8, 1670.
36. GEORGE, b. April 8, 1672.
37. ISAAC, b. April 12, 1674.
38. ABIGAIL, b. Nov. 7, 1677.

Children of John and Sarah (6) Pettibone.

39. JOHN, b. Dec. 15, 1665.
40. SARAH, b. Sept. 24, 1667, d. young.
41. STEPHEN, b. Oct. 3, 1669.
42. SAMUEL.
43. SARAH.

Children of John and Abigail (8) Osborn.

44. JOHN, b. August 25, 1670.
45. ABIGAIL, b. March 8, 1672.
46. MINDWELL, b. Jan. 2, 1674.
47. ANN, b. Jan., 1676.
48. MARY, b. Jan., 1678.
49. HANNAH, b. June 14, 1680.
50. SARAH, b. Aug. 12, 1682.
51. ELIZABETH, b. Dec. 19, 1684.
52. MARTHA, b. April 10, 1687.
53. ISAAC, b. June 6, 1694.
54. MARY, b. Feb. 10, 1696.
55. JACOB, b. Jan. 4, 1696.

Children of Benjamin (10) and Hannah Egleston

56. MARY, b. in East Windsor, Oct. 2, 1680.
57. SARAH, b. in East Windsor, April 20, 1683.
58. ABIGAIL, b. in East Windsor, April 11, 1685.
59. BENJAMIN, b. in East Windsor, May, 1687.
60. DOROTHY, b. in East Windsor, Feb. 28, 1689-90.
61. HESTER, b. in East Windsor, July 10, 1699.

Children of James (11) and Martha Egleston.

- 62. JAMES, b. in Wintonbury Parish, now Bloomfield, Sept. 4, 1719;
d. Nov. 5, 1719.
- 63. ELISHA, b. in Wintonbury, Sept. 25, 1720.
- 64. JAMES, b. in Wintonbury, Sept. 15, 1724.

Children of James (11) and Elizabeth Egleston.

- 65. ABIGAIL, b. in Wintonbury, Jan. 8, 1733-34.

Children of John (12) and Esther Egleston.

- 66. HESTER, b. March 14, 1682-83.
- 67. ABIGAIL, b. Dec. 14, 1683.
- 68. SARAH, b. Jan. 4, 1686.
- 69. JAMES, b. in Wintonbury, June 18, 1689.
- 70. DORCAS, b. Sept. 7, 1692.
- 71. DELIVERANCE, b. April 6, 1695, d. July 12, 1715.
- 72. ANN, b. Jan. 18, 1697.
- 73. DAMARIS, b. July 14, 1700.
- 74. JOHN, b. March 13, 1702-03.
- 75. MARTHA, b. Nov. 20, 1705.
- 76. EDWARD, b. Jan. 31, 1707.

Children of Thomas (13) and Grace Egleston.

- 77. THOMAS.
- 78. GRACE, b. Nov. 11, 1687.
- 79. MARY, b. Jan. 11, 1689-90.
- 80. HANNAH, b. Feb. 7, 1691-92.
- 81. JEDIDIAH, b. June 14, 1696.
- 82. ISABEL.
- 83. DEBORAH, b. May 10, 1700.
- 84. MARY, b. May 13, 1702.
- 85. MINDWELL, b. Nov. 24, 1703.
- 86. JOSEPH, b. April 4, 1706.
- 87. EPHRAIM, b. March 3, 1708.
- 88. ESTHER, b. Oct. 19, 1710.

Children of Nathaniel (15) and Hannah Egleston.

- 89. JOSEPH, b. in Windsor, 1700; d. in Sheffield, May 2, 1774; m.
June 9, 1730, Abigail Ashley, widow, d. of Eleazer and Abigail Welles;
b. in Westfield, Nov. 12, 1703.
- 90. NATHANIEL, b. in Westfield, April 8, 1712; d. in the same place,
March 7, 1774; m. Aug. 13, 1741, Esther Wait.

Children of Isaac (16) and Mary Egleston.

- 91. ISAAC, b. in Wintonbury, Dec. 30, 1695; d. Feb. 10, 1716-17
- 92. MARY, b. July 20, 1697, in Wintonbury.
- 93. JOHN, b. in Wintonbury, Sept. 10, 1700; d. Jan. 12, 1701-02.

94. NATHANIEL, b. in Wintonbury, Jan. 8, 1702-03; d. Jan. 11, 1796.
95. DANIEL, b. in Wintonbury, Jan. 12, 1705.

Children of Joseph (89) and Abigail Eggleston.

97. SETH, b. in Westfield, April 19, 1731; d. in Sheffield, March 20, 1772; m. Nov. 28, 1754, Rachel Church; b. June 19, 1736; d. in East Bloomfield, N. J., June 30, 1825.
98. SARAH, b. in Westfield, April 19, 1731; d. March 20, 1772.
99. ABIGAIL, b. in Westfield, Dec. 3, 1734; d. May 23, 1738.
100. MERCY, b. in Westfield, April 3, 1737.
101. JOSEPH, b. in Westfield, April 17, 1739; m. in 1761, Experience Watkins.
102. ABIGAIL, b. in Westfield, March 22, 1741; d. Aug. 31, 1784.
103. MOSES, b. in Westfield, Sept. 3, 1743; d. Aug. 31, 1794; m. Mary Saxon.
104. THANKFUL, b. in Sheffield, 1745; m. Joseph Tucker of Stockbridge.

Children of Nathaniel (90) and Esther Eggleston.

105. ESTHER, b. in Westfield, Dec. 26, 1743.
106. EDITHA, b. in Westfield, Oct. 2, 1747.
107. DOLLY, b. in Westfield, May 12, 1749.
108. EBER, b. in Westfield, June 13, 1751; d. the same place, Dec. 25, 1815.
109. ABNER, b. in Westfield, July 3, 1754.
110. SIMEON, b. in Westfield.

Children of Seth (97) and Rachel Eggleston.

111. ANNE, b. in Sheffield, Sept. 14, 1755; d. July 18, 1829; m. Jan. 1777, Jonathan Parkiss, who was b. April 21, 1751, and d. Sept. 7, 1832.
112. AZARIAH, b. in Sheffield, Feb. 23, 1757; d. in Lenox, Jan. 12, 1822; m. Aug. 11, 1785, Hannah Paterson, b. in New Britain, Ct., Aug. 24, 1769; d. in Lenox, Jan. 21, 1803.
113. JOSIAH, b. in Sheffield, Feb. 1, 1759; d. in 1822.
114. MERCY, b. in Sheffield, Dec. 22, 1760; m. June 14, 1785, Nathan Waldron.
115. ELIJAH, b. in Sheffield, Feb. 10, 1764; d. in Charleston, S. C., in 1796; m. Eunice Whitney.
116. JOHN, b. in Sheffield, Sept. 15, 1767; d. in Charleston, S. C., Aug. 29, 1822; no issue by his first wife; m. 2, Sarah Morton.

Children of Jonathan and Anne (111) Parkiss.

117. SETH, b. Oct. 9, 1777.
118. RHODA, b. July 7, 1781; d. Dec. 9, 1849.
119. NANCY, b. June 12, 1785; d. Nov. 25, 1801.

Children of Azariah (112) and Hannah Eggleston.

120. SOPHIA, b. in Lenox, March 16, 1789; d. April 1, 1789.
121. MARIA, b. in Lenox, April 12, 1790; d. May 6, 1853; m. Aug. 31, 1812, James W. Robbins.

- 122. NANCY, b. in Lenox, Feb. 17, 1792 ; d. the same day.
- 123. MARY, b. in Lenox, Sept. 24, 1793 ; d. Sept. 1, 1816.
- 124. GEORGE WASHINGTON, b. in Sheffield, July 17, 1795 ; d. Dec. 6, 1863 ; m. (1st wife) Dec. 13, 1821, Sophia Heriot, b. Nov. 12, 1799 ; d. Dec. 13, 1821 ; m. (2d wife) Mrs. Martha Pochee (Du Bose), May 5, 1840 ; b. ; d. Sept. 21, 1865.
- 125. BETSEY, b. 1797 ; m. April 27, 1815, Moses Byxby.
- 126. THOMAS JEFFERSON, b. in Lenox, Sept. 11, 1800 ; d. in New York, July 12, 1861 ; m. April 17, 1828, Sarah Jesup Stebbins, b. Dec. 5, 1809.

Children of Elijah (115) and Eunice Eggleston.

- 127. BETSEY.
- 128. JOHN.

Children of John (116) and Sarah Eggleston.

- 129. AMEDÉE V. C.
- 130. JOHN M. E.
- 131. DAVID W.
- 132. ELIJAH.
- 133. JAMES L.
- 134. MARY W.
- 135. SARAH.

Children of James W. and Maria (121) Robbins.

- 136. JAMES, b. May 30, 1813 ; d. May 9, 1814.
- 137. JAMES, b. Oct. 3, 1814.
- 138. MARIA, b. Nov. 14, 1815.
- 139. AMMI, b. Aug. 28, 1819 ; d. Nov. , 1865.
- 140. THOMAS, b. Sept. 12, 1820 ; d. Aug. 17, 1846.
- 141. GEORGE, b. Sept. 12, 1822.
- 142. MARY, b. Oct. 14, 1824 ; d. May 6, 1853.
- 143. EDWARD, b. Sept. 30, 1828 ; d. Feb. 1865.
- 144. ELIZABETH, b. May 1, 1832 ; d. March 4, 1838.

Children of George W. (124) and Sophia Eggleston.

- 145. SARAH HERIOT, b. Nov. 10, 1822 ; d. Nov. 27, 1824.
- 146. GEORGE PATERSON, b. May 1, 1824.
- 147. THOMAS ROBERT, b. Oct. 7, 1826.
- 148. MARIA ELIZABETH, b. Sept. 13, 1828.
- 149. DANIEL HERIOT, b. Aug. 16, 1830.

Children of G. W. (124) and Martha Eggleston.

- 150. SOPHIA HERIOT, b. March 14, 1841 ; d. May, 1842.
- 151. DU BOSE, b. May 23, 1843.
- 152. SAMUEL DU BOSE, b. Sept. 28, 1845 ; d. Sept. 12, 1856.
- 153. WILLIAM ISOE, b. March 11, 1847 ; d. June , 1884.
- 154. MARY EGLESTON, b. Aug. 16, 1848.
- 155. ELIZABETH, b. Nov. 1, 1849.

Children of Moses and Betsey (125) Byxby.

156. GEORGE W. E., b. March 27, 1817 ; d.

157. LUCY ANN, b. March 20, 1818.

158. MARY.

159. CHARLES, b. ; d.

Children of Thomas J. (126) and Sarah J. Eggleston.

160. THOMAS STEBBINS, b. July 26, 1829 ; d. April 3, 1831.

161. DAVID STEBBINS, b. Nov. 22, 1830.

162. THOMAS, b. Dec. 9, 1832.

163. THEOPHILUS STEBBINS, b. July 13, 1835 ; d. Nov. 12, 1838.

164. SARAH ELIZABETH, b. Aug. 7, 1837.

165. WILLIAM COUCH, b. June 30, 1839.

166. GEORGE WASHINGTON, b. Sept. 1, 1843.

167. HENRY PARIS, b. April 6, 1848 ; d. Nov. 19, 1886.



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